

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A wireless hands-free device, comprising:
5 a piconet front end adapted to establish an audio path with a
wireless phone over a piconet network; and
 a speakerphone functionality module.
2. The wireless hands-free device according to claim 1,
10 wherein:
 said piconet network conforms to BLUETOOTH™
standards.
3. The wireless hands-free device according to claim 1,
15 wherein:
 said speakerphone functionality module includes an echo
canceller.
4. The wireless hands-free device according to claim 1,
20 wherein:
 said speakerphone functionality module is adapted to
interface with an external sound system of a vehicle.
5. The wireless hands-free device according to claim 1,
25 further comprising:
 a driver ID register/memory adapted for storage of a unique
identification of a current driver of a vehicle.

6. The wireless hands-free device according to claim 1,
further comprising:

5 a phone arbitrator module adapted to provide arbitrated
access to any one of a plurality of wireless phones participating in said
piconet network.

7. The wireless hands-free device according to claim 6,
further comprising:

10 an external selection control mounted for access by a user
directing said wireless hands-free device as to which participant in said
piconet network has a highest priority for usage of said wireless hands-
free device.

15 8. A method of providing hands-free functionality to one of a
plurality of wireless phones participating in a piconet network, comprising:
receiving a request for access to a wireless hands-free
gateway from one of said plurality of wireless phones; and
providing hands-free functionality to said one of said plurality
of wireless phones.

20 9. The method of providing hands-free functionality to one
of a plurality of wireless phones participating in a piconet network
according to claim 8, wherein:

said piconet network is established within a vehicle.

25 10. The method of providing hands-free functionality to one
of a plurality of wireless phones participating in a piconet network
according to claim 9, further comprising:

30 determining which of a plurality of participants in a piconet
network is a current driver of a vehicle.

11. The method of providing hands-free functionality to one of a plurality of wireless phones participating in a piconet network according to claim 10, further comprising:

5 if said one of said plurality of wireless phones is a driver of said vehicle, denying access to any other one of said plurality of wireless phones until said one of said plurality of wireless phones has completed its use of said hands-free functionality.

10 12. The method of providing hands-free functionality to one of a plurality of wireless phones participating in a piconet network according to claim 10, further comprising:

providing a highest priority for access to said hands-free functionality to a driver of a vehicle.

15 13. Apparatus for providing hands-free functionality to one of a plurality of wireless phones participating in a piconet network, comprising:

means for receiving a request for access to a wireless
20 hands-free gateway from one of said plurality of wireless phones; and
means for providing hands-free functionality to said one of said plurality of wireless phones.

25 14. The apparatus for providing hands-free functionality to one of a plurality of wireless phones participating in a piconet network according to claim 13, wherein:

said piconet network is established within a vehicle.

15. The apparatus for providing hands-free functionality to one of a plurality of wireless phones participating in a piconet network according to claim 14, further comprising:

means for determining which of a plurality of participants in a piconet network is a current driver of a vehicle.

16. The apparatus for providing hands-free functionality to one of a plurality of wireless phones participating in a piconet network according to claim 15, further comprising:

means for denying access to any other one of said plurality of wireless phones until said one of said plurality of wireless phones has completed its use of said hands-free functionality, if said one of said plurality of wireless phones is a driver of said vehicle.

17. The method of providing hands-free functionality to one of a plurality of wireless phones participating in a piconet network according to claim 15, further comprising:

means for providing a highest priority for access to said hands-free functionality to a driver of a vehicle.

18. A method of providing hands-free functionality to a wireless phone participating in a piconet network, comprising:

receiving a request for access to a wireless hands-free gateway from said wireless phone; and

providing hands-free functionality to said wireless phone.

19. The method of providing hands-free functionality to a wireless phone participating in a piconet network according to claim 18, wherein:

said piconet network is established within a vehicle.

20. The method of providing hands-free functionality to a wireless phone participating in a piconet network according to claim 19, further comprising:

5 determining which of a plurality of participants in a piconet network is a current driver of a vehicle.

21. The method of providing hands-free functionality to a wireless phone participating in a piconet network according to claim 20,
10 further comprising:

 denying access to any other wireless phones until said wireless phone determined to be used by a driver of said vehicle has completed their use of said hands-free functionality.

22. The method of providing hands-free functionality to a wireless phone participating in a piconet network according to claim 20,
15 further comprising:

 providing a highest priority for access to said hands-free functionality to a driver of a vehicle.

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